

REMARKS

Claims 33-46, 49-61, 65-65, and 68-73 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment adds new claim 74. Accordingly, claims 33-46, 49-61, 65-65, and 68-74 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment. Claims 33, 68, and 74 are independent.

The Office Action objected to claims 33, 43, 50, 54, and 73 for various informalities. The claims have been amended to obviate these objections. Specifically, claim 33 has been amended to remove the limitations objected to by the Office Action, claims 50 and 54 have been amended to change "the" to "a", and claim 73 has been amended to correct an obvious error and now depends from claim 72. Claim 43 has been amended to recite that the light guiding plate is flexible.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments obviate the objects. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 33, 43, 50, 54, and 73.

Applicants note that amended claims 33 and 68 are not intended to be limited to the specific mechanisms of patentability previously argued with respect to any prior claims and, thus, Applicants rescind any disclaimer of claim scope with respect to these prior claims such that any prior art, for which such a disclaimer was made to avoid, may need to be revisited by the Examiner with respect to amended claims 33 and 68.

Independent claims 33 and 68, as well as dependent claims 33-46, 49-61, 65-66, and 69-71, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0030320 to Budd et al. (Budd).

Independent claim 33 has been amended to recite "at least one OLED arranged on the light entry surface(emphasis added)".

In contrast, Budd is directed to an OLED that is positioned a predetermined distance from the light entry face of the light guide. This distance is necessary due to the reflector that is used to reflect laterally emitted light towards the light entry face of the light guide. Thus, the OLED of Budd is not arranged on the light entry surface as in claim 33.

Notwithstanding the above, claim 33 has been further clarified in the interest of expediting prosecution to recite that "contact surfaces forming busbars, said busbars being **arranged on** said light guiding plate (emphasis added)".

Clearly, the remotely positioned OLED of Budd does not have contact surfaces forming busbars that are "arranged on" the light guiding plate as in claim 33. In fact, Applicants submit that such an arrangement of busbars "on the light guiding plate" of Budd would make no sense since there could be no electrical contact to the OLEDs.

Moreover, independent claim 33 recites that "the at least one OLED is of **strip-shaped form** (emphasis added)".

Applicants respectfully maintain the traversal of this rejection.

More specifically, Applicants submit that, as can be clearly seen from Fig. 3 of Budd, the device comprises a multitude of small OLEDs arranged along a line, where each OLED is clearly rectangular and not strip-shaped as claimed.

Accordingly, claim 33, as well as claims 34-46, 49-61, and 65-66 that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance over Budd. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 33-46, 49-61 and 65-66 are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 68, much like claim 33 discussed above, recites "an OLED having a transparent electrode layer **arranged on** the light entry surface", as well as first and second contact surfaces that serve as "busbars for supporting conductivity of

the transparent and second electrode layers" where the busbars are "**arranged on** said glass substrate".

Again, Budd is directed to an OLED that is positioned a predetermined distance from the light entry face of the light guide. Thus, the OLED of Budd is clearly not arranged on the light entry surface as in claim 68. Further, the remotely positioned OLED of Budd clearly does not have contact surfaces forming busbars that are "arranged on" the light guiding plate as in claim 68.

Accordingly, claim 68, as well as claims 69-73 that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance over Budd. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 68-73 are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 33 and 68, as well as dependent claims 33-42, 45-48, 52, 58-61, and 69-71, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,777,871 to Duggal et al. (Duggal).

Independent claim 33 recites that the busbars are "**arranged on** said light guiding plate". Similarly, independent claim 68 recites that the busbars are "**arranged on** said glass substrate".

Applicants submit that the electrical contacts 162, 164 of Duggal are not **arranged on** the light guiding plate or glass substrate as claimed. Rather, Duggal discloses that electrical contacts 162, 164 are applied to sealing member 150 and not to glass substrate 125. See col. 16, lines 12-27 and FIG. 11, step 6.

Accordingly, claims 33 and 68, as well as claims 34-46, 49-61, 65-66, and 69-73 that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance over Duggal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 33-46, 49-61, 65-65, and 68-73 are respectfully requested.

In addition, dependent claim 72 recites, in part, that the first and second contact surfaces each comprise "a portion extending on **opposite lateral surfaces** of the light-entry surface (emphasis added)". In contrast, Duggal specifically discloses that the electrical contacts 162, 164 occupy a **common plane**. See col. 13, lines 23-26 and FIGS. 9 and 11. Further, and to the extent that electrical contacts 162, 164 extend on opposite lateral surfaces of sealing member 150 shown in step 6 of FIG. 11, Applicants submit that sealing member 150 is not the light entry surface. Thus, dependent claim 72 is also in condition for allowance over Duggal.

Claim 74 has been added to point out various aspects of the present application. Support for new claim 74 can be found in the specification at least at paragraphs [0089]-[0091], as well as in Figures 9B. No new matter is added.

Applicants specifically point out that claim 74 is not intended to be limited to the specific mechanisms of patentability previously argued with respect to any prior claims in this or any related applications. Accordingly, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope and, thus, any prior art for which such a disclaimer was made to avoid may need to be revisited by the Examiner with respect to claim 74.

It is believed that claim 74 is in a condition for allowance. For example, independent claim 74 recites "first contact surface having **a first portion arranged on said a first lateral surface** and a second portion arranged on said light entry surface" and "second contact surface having **a first portion arranged on said second lateral surface** and a second portion in electrical contact with the second electrode layer", where these first portions comprises "**reflective surfaces**".

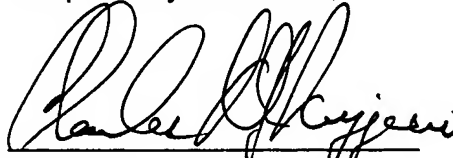
Applicants submit that the Budd and Duggal each fail to disclose or suggest the **reflective first portions** of the contact surfaces that are arranged on **lateral surfaces** of the glass substrate as in claim 74. Therefore, claim 74 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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